

NONREIMBURSABLE SPACE ACT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER  
And WILLIAM MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY

ARTICLE 1. AUTHORITY AND PARTIES

In accordance with the National Aeronautics and Space Act (51 U.S.C. § 20113(e)), this Agreement is entered into by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, located at 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, Texas 77058 (hereinafter referred to as "NASA" or "NASA JSC") and William Marsh Rice University located at 6100 Main Street, Houston, TX (hereinafter referred to as "Partner" or "Rice"). NASA and Partner may be individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively referred to as the "Parties." Unless specifically stated otherwise, the term "entrepreneur" in this Agreement and all Annexes refers to an individual or entity Rice or The Ion has invited to engage in The Ion's accelerator program. Similarly, "tenants" refers to individuals and entities with a place of business at The Ion but not participating in the activities under this Agreement or its Annexes.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Umbrella Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement" or "Umbrella Agreement") shall be for the purpose of allowing both Parties to collaborate on developing and supporting an innovation "ecosystem" or community in the Houston/Gulf Coast region, including supporting The Ion programs and resources to develop and enlist entrepreneur communities. Specifically, the Parties intend to:

1. mutually encourage opportunities for technology and commercial space entrepreneurs to partner with space industry partners;
2. encourage the development of spin-off technologies in support of commercial space for potential use in future NASA and private space missions;
3. encourage a private sector skilled local workforce to support the development of space technologies; and
4. support the growth of the commercial space ecosystem.

Rice is pioneering a platform to accelerate the formation of space entrepreneurs to grow commercial space supply chains, seek solutions to address space technology challenges, and license NASA technology for commercial applications. The Parties' collaboration under this Agreement will provide space entrepreneurs with an opportunity to gain invaluable access to knowledge and resources.

NASA desires to advance private industry innovation ecosystems to advance technology development and infrastructure congruent with NASA's mission, as well as the commercial space industry. The Parties' collaboration under this Agreement will provide entrepreneurs with opportunities to access patent-protected technologies and algorithms vetted for technical and commercial viability, as well as NASA technical personnel and facilities for additional

support. NASA will also gain the opportunity to reach a new community of entrepreneurs to create solutions to support space exploration.

Rice is the identified and sole Partner under this Agreement and maintains its primary responsibility as such. At its discretion, Rice may direct representatives of The Ion, a subsidiary of Rice, to act on its behalf in carrying out the responsibilities identified under this Umbrella and any subsequent Annexes. The Ion anchors, activates, and accelerates the innovation ecosystem through partnerships, pathways, and programs that create opportunities to advance and sustain resilient economic growth in Houston. For the purposes of this Agreement, entrepreneurs and tenants of The Ion are not considered Related Entities of Rice. The goals of The Ion include the following project goals and workforce development goals:

- **Project Goals**
  1. Strengthen Houston's economic resiliency and competitiveness.
  2. Attract and retain innovative talent, companies, and institutions.
  3. Foster an inclusive and welcoming neighborhood that offers economic opportunity to all Houstonians.
  4. Create a vibrant, connected, and timeless place that celebrates Houston's communities and culture.
- **Workforce Development Goals**
  1. Diversify the Tech Workforce: Provide technical training for workers and job seekers at all career stages.
  2. Diversify Tech Entrepreneurship: Assist entrepreneurs at various stages of the startup lifecycle.
  3. Strengthen Community Businesses: Provide a hub for reskilling/upskilling small businesses to compete with ongoing technological advances.

The Parties shall execute one (1) Annex Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Annex") concurrently with this Umbrella Agreement. The Parties may execute subsequent Annexes under this Umbrella Agreement consistent with the purpose and terms of this Umbrella Agreement. This Umbrella Agreement shall govern all Annexes executed hereunder; no Annex shall amend this Umbrella Agreement. Each Annex will detail the specific purpose of the proposed activity, responsibilities, schedule and milestones, and any personnel, property or facilities to be utilized under the task. This Umbrella Agreement takes precedence over any Annexes. In the event of a conflict between the Umbrella Agreement and any Annex concerning the meaning of its provisions, and the rights, obligations and remedies of the Parties, the Umbrella Agreement is controlling.

### ARTICLE 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. NASA JSC will use reasonable efforts to:

1. Provide support of projects undertaken in any Annex;
2. Provide internal coordination of approvals for Annexes;
3. Provide for a single point of contact for Annex development and operations.

B. Partner will use reasonable efforts to:

1. Provide support of projects undertaken in any Annex;
2. Provide internal coordination of approvals for Annexes;
3. Provide for a single point of contact for Annex development and operations.

#### ARTICLE 4. SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES

The Parties shall execute one (1) Annex concurrently with this Umbrella Agreement. The initial Annex and any subsequent Annexes will be performed on the schedule and in accordance with the milestones set forth in each respective Annex.

#### ARTICLE 5. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There will be no transfer of funds between the Parties under this Agreement and each Party will fund its own participation. All activities under or pursuant to this Agreement are subject to the availability of funds, and no provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, (31 U.S.C. § 1341).

#### ARTICLE 6. PRIORITY OF USE

Any schedule or milestone in this Agreement is estimated based upon the Parties' current understanding of the projected availability of NASA goods, services, facilities, or equipment. In the event that NASA's projected availability changes, Partner shall be given reasonable notice of that change, so that the schedule and milestones may be adjusted accordingly. The Parties agree that NASA's use of the goods, services, facilities, or equipment shall have priority over the use planned in this Agreement. Should a conflict arise, NASA in its sole discretion shall determine whether to exercise that priority. Likewise, should a conflict arise as between two or more non-NASA Partners, NASA, in its sole discretion, shall determine the priority as between those Partners. This Agreement does not obligate NASA to seek alternative government property or services under the jurisdiction of NASA at other locations.

#### ARTICLE 7. NONEXCLUSIVITY

This Agreement is not exclusive; accordingly, NASA may enter into similar agreements for the same or similar purpose with other private or public entities.

#### ARTICLE 8. LIABILITY AND RISK OF LOSS

A. Each Party hereby waives any claim against the other Party, employees of the other Party, the other Party's Related Entities (including but not limited to contractors and subcontractors at any tier, grantees, investigators, customers, users, and their contractors or subcontractor at any tier), or employees of the other Party's Related Entities for any injury to, or death of, the waiving Party's employees or the employees of its Related Entities, or for damage to, or loss of, the waiving Party's property or the property of its Related Entities arising from or related to activities conducted under this Agreement, whether such injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise, except in the case of willful misconduct.

B. Each Party further agrees to extend this cross-waiver to its Related Entities by requiring them, by contract or otherwise, to waive all claims against the other Party, Related Entities of the other Party, and employees of the other Party or of its Related Entities for injury, death, damage, or loss arising from or related to activities conducted under this Agreement. Additionally, each Party shall require that their Related Entities extend this cross-waiver to their Related Entities by requiring them, by contract or otherwise, to waive all claims against the other Party, Related Entities of the other Party, and employees of the other Party or of its Related Entities for injury, death, damage, or loss arising from or related to activities conducted under this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 9. LIABILITY AND RISK OF LOSS - PRODUCT LIABILITY

With respect to products or processes resulting from a Party's participation in an SAA, each Party that markets, distributes, or otherwise provides such product, or a product designed or produced by such a process, directly to the public will be solely responsible for the safety of the product or process.

#### ARTICLE 10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - DATA RIGHTS

##### A. General

1. "Related Entity" as used in this Data Rights Article means a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or other entity having a legal relationship with NASA or Partner, that is assigned, tasked, or contracted to perform activities under this Agreement, but excluding entrepreneurs and tenants, unless otherwise specified in any Annex.
2. "Data," means recorded information, regardless of form, the media on which it is recorded, or the method of recording.
3. "Proprietary Data," means Data embodying trade secrets developed at private expense or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, and that includes a restrictive notice, unless the Data is:
  - a. known or available from other sources without restriction;
  - b. known, possessed, or developed independently, and without reference to the Proprietary Data;
  - c. made available by the owners to others without restriction; or
  - d. required by law or court order to be disclosed.
4. Data exchanged under this Agreement is exchanged without restriction except as otherwise provided herein.
5. Notwithstanding any restrictions provided in this Article, the Parties are not restricted in the use, disclosure, or reproduction of Data provided under this Agreement that meets one of the exceptions in 3. above. If a Party believes that any exceptions apply, it shall notify the other Party before any unrestricted use, disclosure, or reproduction of the Data.
6. The Parties will not exchange preexisting Proprietary Data under this Agreement unless authorized herein or in writing by the owner.

7. If the Parties exchange Data having a notice that the Receiving Party deems is ambiguous or unauthorized, the Receiving Party shall tell the Providing Party. If the notice indicates a restriction, the Receiving Party shall protect the Data under this Article unless otherwise directed in writing by the Providing Party.

8. The Data rights herein apply to the employees and Related Entities of Partner. Partner shall ensure that its employees and Related Entity employees know about and are bound by the obligations under this Article.

9. Disclaimer of Liability: NASA is not restricted in, or liable for, the use, disclosure, or reproduction of Data without a restrictive notice or for Data Partner gives, or is required to give, the U.S. Government without restriction.

#### B. Data First Produced by Partner Under this Agreement

If Data first produced by Partner or its Related Entities under this Agreement is given to NASA, and the Data is Proprietary Data, and it includes a restrictive notice, NASA will use reasonable efforts to protect it. The Data will be disclosed and used (under suitable protective conditions) only for U.S. Government purposes.

#### C. Data First Produced by NASA under this Agreement

If Partner requests that Data first produced by NASA under this Agreement be protected, and NASA determines it would be Proprietary Data if obtained from Partner, NASA will mark the Data with a restrictive notice and will use reasonable efforts to protect it for the period of time specified in the Annex under which the Data is produced. During this restricted period the Data may be disclosed and used (under suitable protective conditions) for U.S. Government purposes only, and thereafter for any purpose. Partner must not disclose the Data without NASA's written approval during the restricted period. The restrictions placed on NASA do not apply to Data disclosing a NASA-owned invention for which patent protection is being considered.

#### D. Publication of Results

The National Aeronautics and Space Act (51 U.S.C. § 20112) requires NASA to provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof. As such, NASA may publish unclassified and non-Proprietary Data resulting from work performed under this Agreement. The Parties will coordinate publication of results allowing a reasonable time to review and comment.

#### E. Data Disclosing an Invention

If the Parties exchange Data disclosing an invention for which patent protection is being considered, and the furnishing Party identifies the Data as such when providing it to the Receiving Party, the Receiving Party shall withhold it from public disclosure for a reasonable time (one (1) year unless otherwise agreed or the Data is restricted for a longer period herein).

#### F. Copyright

Data exchanged with a copyright notice and with restrictive notice is presumed to be published. The following royalty-free licenses apply:

1. If indicated on the Data that it was produced outside of this Agreement, it may be reproduced, distributed, and used to prepare derivative works only for carrying out the Receiving Party's responsibilities under this Agreement.
2. Data without the indication of F.I. is presumed to be first produced under this Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph E. of this Article, and in the Inventions and Patent Rights Article of this Agreement for protection of reported inventions, the Data may be reproduced, distributed, and used to prepare derivative works for any purpose.

#### G. Data Subject to Export Control

Whether or not marked, technical data subject to the export laws and regulations of the United States provided to Partner under this Agreement must not be given to foreign persons or transmitted outside the United States without proper U.S. Government authorization.

### ARTICLE 11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - INVENTION AND PATENT RIGHTS

A. "Related Entity" as used in this Invention and Patent Rights Article means a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or other entity having a legal relationship with NASA or Partner assigned, tasked, or contracted with to perform activities under this Agreement, but excluding entrepreneurs and tenants, unless otherwise specified in any Annex. .

B. The invention and patent rights herein apply to employees and Related Entities of Partner. Partner shall ensure that its employees and Related Entity employees know about and are bound by the obligations under this Article.

C. NASA has determined that 51 U.S.C. § 20135(b) does not apply to this Agreement. Therefore, title to inventions made (conceived or first actually reduced to practice) under this Agreement remain with the respective inventing party(ies). No invention or patent rights are exchanged or granted under this Agreement. NASA and Partner will use reasonable efforts to report inventions made jointly by their employees (including employees of their Related Entities). The Parties will consult and agree on the responsibilities and actions to establish and maintain patent protection for joint invention, and on the terms and conditions of any license or other rights exchanged or granted between them.

### ARTICLE 12. USE OF NAME AND EMBLEMS

#### A. NASA Name and Initials

Partner shall not use "National Aeronautics and Space Administration" or "NASA" in a way that creates the impression that a product or service has the authorization, support, sponsorship, or endorsement of NASA, which does not, in fact, exist. Except for releases under the "Release of General Information to the Public and Media" Article, Partner must submit any proposed public use of the NASA name or initials (including press releases and all promotional and advertising

use) to the NASA Associate Administrator for the Office of Communications or designee ("NASA Communications") for review and approval. Approval by NASA Office of Communications shall be based on applicable law and policy governing the use of the NASA name and initials. Any use of Partner's name shall be limited to statements of fact.

#### B. NASA Emblems

Use of NASA emblems (i.e., NASA Seal, NASA Insignia, NASA logotype, NASA Program Identifiers, and the NASA Flag) is governed by 14 C.F.R. Part 1221. Partner must submit any proposed use of the emblems to NASA Communications for review and approval.

#### C. Rice Name and Trademarks

NASA shall not use any Rice University trademarks (including "Rice" and "Rice University") in a way that creates the impression that a product or service has the authorization, support, sponsorship, or endorsement of Rice, which does not, in fact, exist. NASA will only use any Rice University trademarks as permitted under the "Release of General Information to the Public and Media" Article and any nominative fair use.

### ARTICLE 13. RELEASE OF GENERAL INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA

NASA or Partner may, consistent with Federal law and this Agreement, release general information regarding its own participation in this Agreement as desired.

Pursuant to Section 841(d) of the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017, Public Law 115-10 (the "NTAA"), NASA is obligated to publicly disclose copies of all agreements conducted pursuant to NASA's 51 U.S.C. §20113(e) authority in a searchable format on the NASA website within 60 days after the agreement is signed by the Parties. The Parties acknowledge that a copy of this Agreement will be disclosed, without redactions, in accordance with the NTAA.

### ARTICLE 14. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY

Goods, services, facilities, or equipment provided by both parties under this Agreement are provided "as is." Both parties make no express or implied warranty as to the condition of any such goods, services, facilities, or equipment, or as to the condition of any research or information generated under this Agreement, or as to any products made or developed under or as a result of this Agreement including as a result of the use of information generated hereunder, or as to the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose of such research, information, or resulting product, or that the goods, services, facilities or equipment provided will accomplish the intended results or are safe for any purpose including the intended purpose, or that any of the above will not interfere with privately-owned rights of others. Neither Party nor their contractors shall be liable for special, consequential or incidental damages attributed to such equipment, facilities, technical information, or services provided under this Agreement or such research, information, or resulting products made or developed under or as a result of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 15. DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT

Both Parties do not endorse or sponsor any commercial product, service, or activity. Both Parties' participation in this Agreement or provision of goods, services, facilities or equipment under this Agreement does not constitute endorsement by NASA. Both Parties agree that nothing in this Agreement will be construed to imply that the first Party authorizes, supports, endorses, or sponsors any product or service of the second Party resulting from activities conducted under this Agreement, regardless of the fact that such product or service may employ first-Party-developed technology.

## ARTICLE 16. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A. The Parties shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to, safety; security; export control; environmental; and suspension and debarment laws and regulations. Access by a Partner to NASA facilities or property, or to a NASA Information Technology (IT) system or application, is contingent upon compliance with NASA security and safety policies and guidelines including, but not limited to, standards on badging, credentials, and facility and IT system/application access.

B. With respect to any export control requirements:

1. The Parties will comply with all U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), 22 C.F.R. Parts 120 through 130, and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), 15 C.F.R. Parts 730 through 799, in performing work under this Agreement or any Annex to this Agreement. In the absence of available license exemptions or exceptions, the Partner shall be responsible for obtaining the appropriate licenses or other approvals, if required, for exports of hardware, technical data and software, or for the provision of technical assistance.

2. The Partner shall be responsible for obtaining export licenses, if required, before utilizing foreign persons in the performance of work under this Agreement or any Annex under this Agreement, including instances where the work is to be performed on-site at NASA and where the foreign person will have access to export-controlled technical data or software.

3. The Partner will be responsible for all regulatory record-keeping requirements associated with the use of licenses and license exemptions or exceptions.

4. The Partner will be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this Article apply to its Related Entities.

C. With respect to suspension and debarment requirements:

1. The Partner hereby certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it has complied, and shall comply, with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, Subpart C, as supplemented by 2 C.F.R. Part 1880, Subpart C.



2. The Partner shall include language and requirements equivalent to those set forth in subparagraph C.1., above, in any lower-tier covered transaction entered into under this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 17. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last signature below ("Effective Date") and shall remain in effect until the completion of all obligations of both Parties hereto, or five years from the Effective Date, whichever comes first.

#### ARTICLE 18. RIGHT TO TERMINATE

Either Party may unilaterally terminate this Umbrella Agreement or any Annex(es) by providing thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the other Party. Termination of an Annex does not terminate this Umbrella Agreement. However, the termination or expiration of this Umbrella Agreement also constitutes the termination of all outstanding Annexes.

#### ARTICLE 19. CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS

The rights and obligations of the Parties that, by their nature, would continue beyond the expiration or termination of this Agreement, e.g., "Liability and Risk of Loss" and "Intellectual Property Rights"-related clauses shall survive such expiration or termination of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 20. POINTS OF CONTACT

The following personnel are designated as the Points of Contact between the Parties in the performance of this Agreement. Annexes may designate Points of Contact for purposes of the Annex activities.

##### Management Points of Contact

NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
Dan Jacobs  
Partnerships Office  
2101 NASA Parkway: Org: XT  
Houston, Texas 77058  
Phone: 281.244.8960  
daniel.v.jacobs@nasa.Gov

Rice University  
Krystal Toups  
Assistant Vice Provost for Sponsored  
Projects and Research Compliance  
6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005  
Phone: 713-348-6200  
Email: sparc@rice.edu

##### Technical Points of Contact

NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
To be named in each annex

Rice University  
Jan E. Odegard  
Interim Executive Director  
Rice Management Company - The Ion  
6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005

Phone: 281-221-2183  
Email: jodegard@ionhouston.com

#### ARTICLE 21. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Except as otherwise provided in the Article entitled "Priority of Use," the Article entitled "Intellectual Property Rights – Invention and Patent Rights" (for those activities governed by 37 C.F.R. Part 404), and those situations where a pre-existing statutory or regulatory system exists (e.g., under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552), all disputes concerning questions of fact or law arising under this Agreement or Annex shall be referred by the claimant in writing to the appropriate person identified in this Agreement for purposes of the activities undertaken in the Agreement, or Annex(es) for purposes of the activities undertaken in the Annex(es) as the "Points of Contact." The persons identified as the "Points of Contact" for NASA and the Partner will consult and attempt to resolve all issues arising from the implementation of this Agreement. If they are unable to come to agreement on any issue, the dispute will be referred to the signatories to this Agreement, or their designees, for joint resolution. If the Parties remain unable to resolve the dispute, then the NASA signatory or that person's designee, as applicable, will issue a written decision that will be the final agency decision for the purpose of judicial review. Nothing in this Article limits or prevents either Party from pursuing any other right or remedy available by law upon the issuance of the final agency decision.

#### ARTICLE 22. MODIFICATIONS

Any modification to this Umbrella Agreement shall be executed, in writing, and signed by an authorized representative of NASA and the Partner. Accompanying Annexes may be modified under the same terms. Modification of an Annex does not modify the Umbrella Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 23. ASSIGNMENT

Neither this Agreement nor any interest arising under it will be assigned by the Partner or NASA without the express written consent of the officials executing, or successors, or higher-level officials possessing original or delegated authority to execute this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 24. APPLICABLE LAW

U.S. Federal law governs this Agreement for all purposes, including, but not limited to, determining the validity of the Agreement, the meaning of its provisions, and the rights, obligations and remedies of the Parties.

#### ARTICLE 25. INDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP

This Agreement is not intended to constitute, create, give effect to or otherwise recognize a joint venture, partnership, or formal business organization, or agency agreement of any kind, and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be only those expressly set forth herein.

ARTICLE 26. LOAN OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

The parties shall enter into a NASA Form 893, Loan of NASA Equipment, for NASA equipment loaned to Partner.

ARTICLE 27. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

The signatories to this Agreement covenant and warrant that they have authority to execute this Agreement. By signing below, the undersigned agrees to the above terms and conditions.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE  
CENTER

BY: Vanessa E Wyche  
Vanessa Wyche  
Director, Johnson Space Center

DATE: 7/14/2022

WILLIAM MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY

BY: Douglas Natelson  
Douglas Natelson  
Interim Vice Provost of Research

DATE: July 14, 2022

ION

BY: Jan E. Odegard  
Jan E. Odegard  
Executive Director, Ion

DATE: July 14, 2022